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EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
the AVENGERS
1ST SPECTACULAR ISSUE!
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& Chap Yaep
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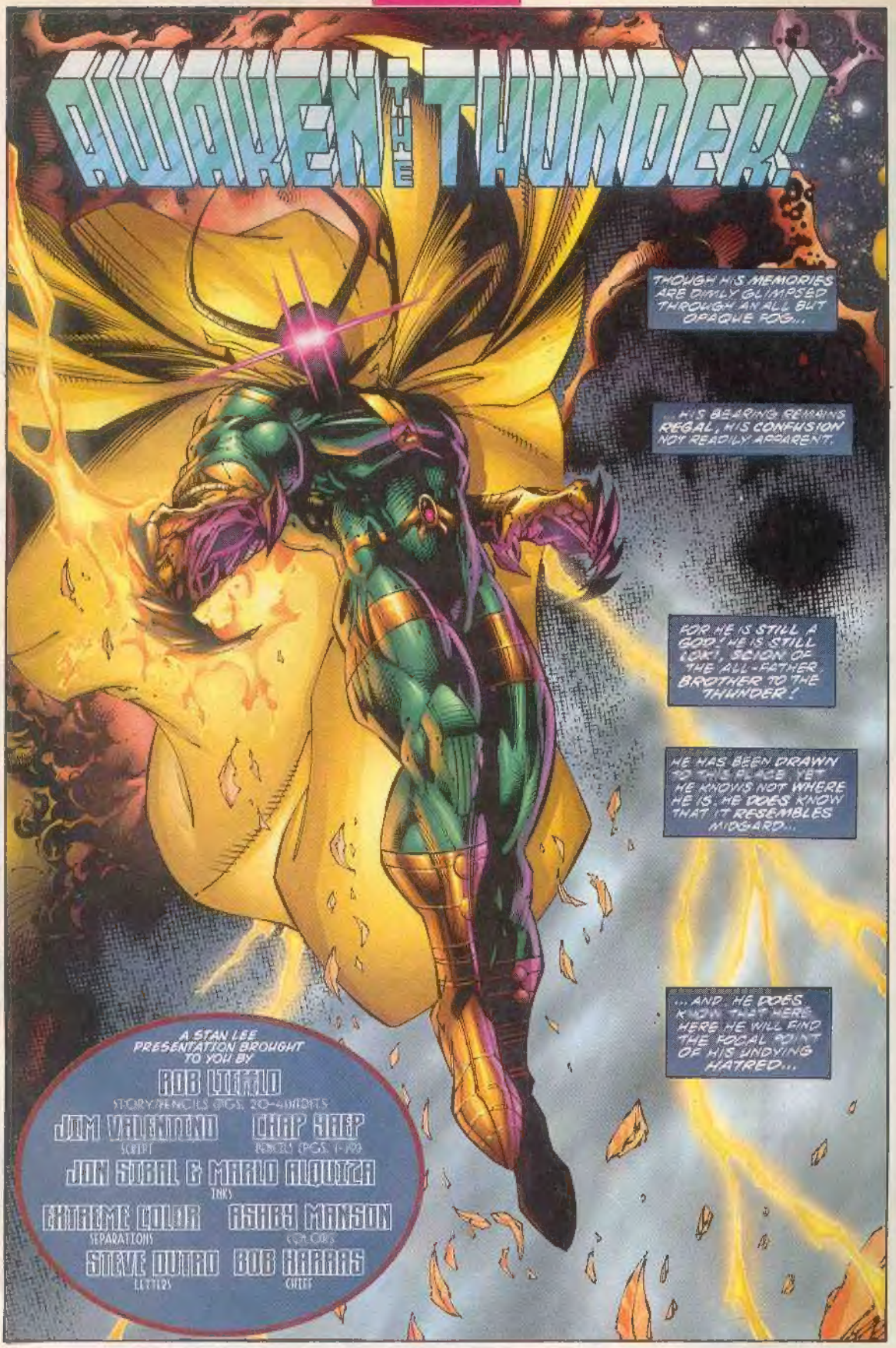
AWAKEN THE THUNDER!
THOUGH HIS MEMORIES ARE DIMLY GLIMPSED THROUGH AN ALL BUT OPAQUE FOG...
...HIS BEARING REMAINS REGAL, HIS CONFUSION NOT READILY APPARENT.
FOR HE IS STILL A GOD! HE IS STILL LOKI, SCION OF THE ALL-FATHER BROTHER TO THE THUNDER!
HE HAS BEEN DRAWN TO THIS PLACE, YET HE KNOWS NOT WHERE HE IS. HE DOES KNOW THAT IT RESEMBLES MIDGARD...
...AND HE DOES KNOW THAT HERE HERE HE WILL FIND THE FOCAL POINT OF HIS UNDYING HATRED...
A STAN LEE PRESENTATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY
ROB LIEFELD
STORY/PENCILS (PGS. 20-44/BACK)
JIM VALENTINO
SCRIPT
CHAP SHEP
PENCILS (PGS. 1-19)
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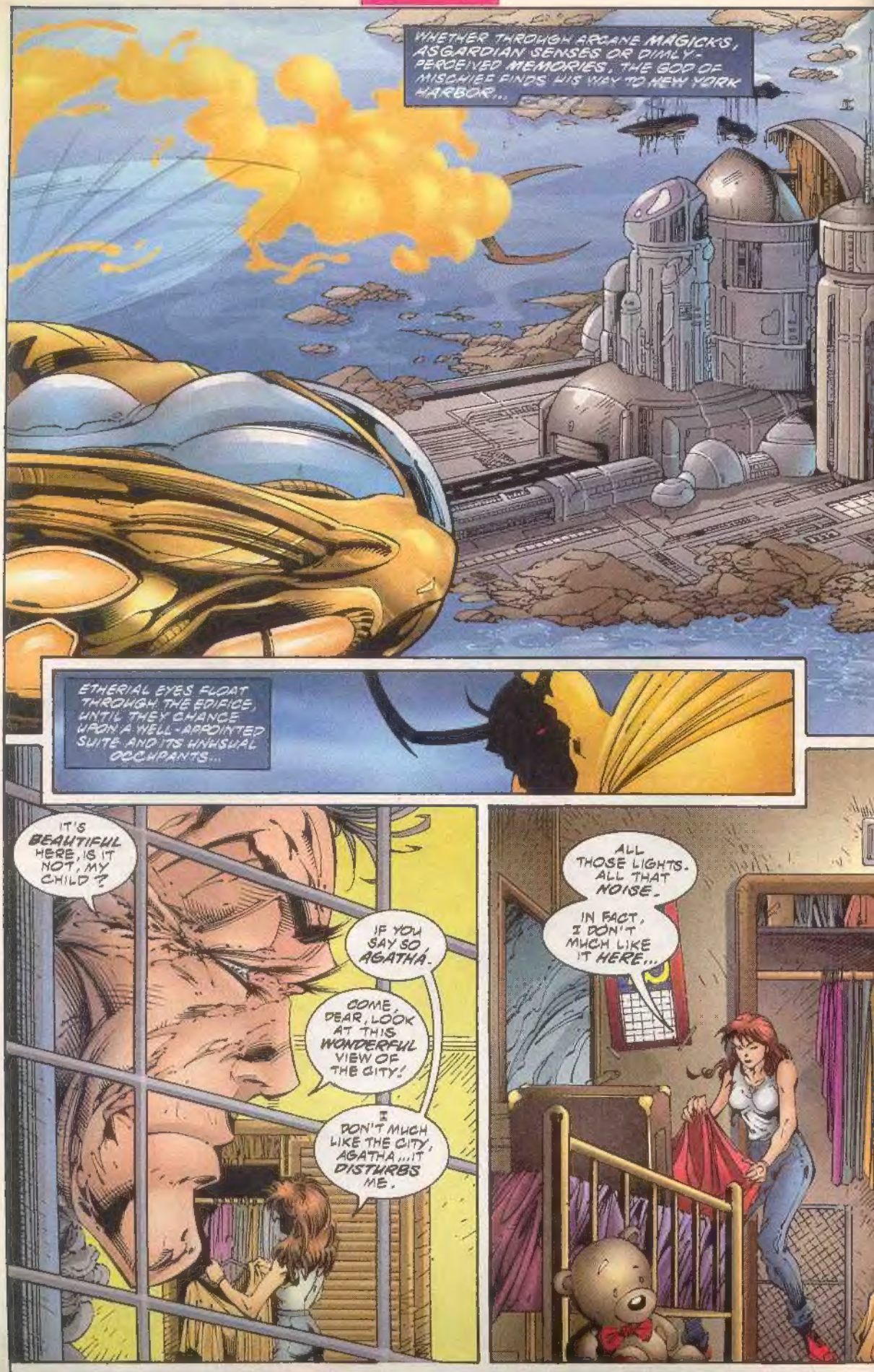
...THOR!
CAN I NEVER ESCAPE HIS HATED SHADOW?
HIS VERY PRESENCE DOTH TORTURE ME. HIS EVERY BREATH DOTH TORTURE ME!
THOUGH MINE MIND BE CONFUSED, MY THOUGHTS UNCLEAR... I KNOW HE WILL BE DOWN THERE... SOMEWHERE!
E'EN AS I KNOW THAT THIS TIME I MUST PUT AN END TO HIS ETERNAL TORMENT.
BUT WHERE BE HE? MAYHAP, THE FIRST PLACE I SHOULD LOOK IS...
...ASGARD?!?
WHAT DEVILTRY BE THIS, THEN?
WHERE THE RAINBOW BRIDGE SHOULD SWIRL, WHERE LOYAL HEIMDALL SHOULD STAND VIGILANT...
...THERE IS NAUGHT?!
WHAT MAGICKS WOULD CONSPIRE TO VANQUISH THE REALM ETERNAL ITSELF?
WHAT THEN OF ODIN?
WHO SAVE LOKI HIMSELF, WOULD PERPETRATE SO HEINOUS A CRIME?
MAYHAP, THE NINE WORLDS HATH SOMEHOW BEEN MOVED... BUT, NO!
MINE MIND REACHETH OUT AND CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE... NO TRACE THAT ASGARD E'ER EXISTED HERE!

WHAT PLACE BE THIS?
WHO DARES TO TRICK THE TRICKSTER?
BUT WAIT! WITHOUT THE ALL-FATHER TO STAY MINE HAND CANNOT LOKI AT LONG LAST TRIUMPH?
CANNOT LOKI WIN THE VENGEANCE HE HATH SO LONG BEEN DENIED...
...CANNOT LOKI SILENCE THE THUNDER?
I SHALT USE ALL ARCANE ARTS AT MINE COMMAND TO FIND HIM, WHERE'ER HE HIDES!
HEAR ME, THOR, I AM COMING FOR THEE! AND THIS TIME NOT E'EN THE HOST OF ASGARD SHALT SAY ME NAY!

OFF THE WINDY COAST OF NORWAY...
...WHERE ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST ARCHAEOLOGISTS PURPORTEDLY SEARCHES FOR THE LOST CITY OF THUNE...
...BUT, IN REALITY LEADS A S.H.I.E.L.D.-FUNDED DIG, SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING MUCH GREATER!
WHY AM I DRAWN HERE... TO THE SOUND OF... MORTALS?
'TIS THOR!
DR. BLAKE, DR. BLAKE! WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING!
WHAT IS IT?
YOU GOTTA COME SEE IT, DOC!
GENTLEMEN, I BELIEVE WE'VE FOUND WHAT WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!
BLAKE? WHY DOTH THAT NAME SOUND SO FAMILIAR?
AND THOSE SHIELDS THEY WEAR. I ALMOST SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THEM...
...CAN MY MEMORY BE RETURNING TO...
SLOW DOWN, MAN. IT'S HARD FOR ME TO CLIMB WITH THIS BUM LEG!
NOW WHAT WAS SO IMPORT-- OH MY GOD!
IT'S HIM!
BUT DOC, WE WERE LOOKIN' FOR A NORSE WAR HAMMER...
...THERE'S A MAN IN THERE!

IF WHAT I SUSPECT IS TRUE, THEN THAT'S NO MAN IN THERE...
...BUT THE LEGENDARY GOD OF THUNDER HIMSELF!
QUICKLY! WE'VE GOT TO CALL HQ!
I SHALT DESTROY THE MIGHTY THOR!
YES, RUN AND CALL THY MASTERS, MORTAL...
WHILST I DO THAT WHICH COULD NE'ER BEEN DONE BEFORE!
WHILST MINE THRICE-CURSED ENEMY DOTH SLUMBER...
KATHOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT?
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD ASK S.H.I.E.L.D. TO SEND IN THAT NEW TEAM OF HEROES WE HEARD ABOUT, DOCTOR...
I DON'T KNOW! BUT IT DIDN'T SEEM TO EFFECT THAT CASING! GIVE ME THE PHONE, JANE, QUICK!
CURSES! HE MUST BE UNDER A SPELL OF PROTECTION FROM HIS MOTHER, GAEA!
I MUST FIND A WAY AROUND IT!
...YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA?
YEAH, WHAT ARE THEY CALLED... THE INVADERS? THE DEFENDERS?
THE AVENGERS!
THE AVENGERS? WHY DOTH THAT NAME RING SO FAMILIAR AND WITH A HATRED ALMOST AS GREAT AS THOR'S?
NO MATTER! I SHALT FIND THESE AVENGERS AND USE THEM...
...NOT ONLY TO BREAK THROUGH GAEA'S SPELL FOR ME...BUT, ALSO, TO DESTROY MINE GREATEST ENEMY!


WHETHER THROUGH ARCANE MAGICKS, ASGARDIAN SENSES OR DIMLY-PERCEIVED MEMORIES, THE GOD OF MISCHIEF FINDS HIS WAY TO NEW YORK HARBOR...
ETHERIAL EYES FLOAT THROUGH THE EDIFICE, UNTIL THEY CHANCE UPON A WELL-APPOINTED SUITE AND ITS UNUSUAL OCCUPANTS...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL HERE, IS IT NOT, MY CHILD?
IF YOU SAY SO, AGATHA.
COME, DEAR, LOOK AT THIS WONDERFUL VIEW OF THE CITY!
I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE CITY, AGATHA...IT DISTURBS ME.
ALL THOSE LIGHTS. ALL THAT NOISE.
IN FACT, I DON'T MUCH LIKE IT HERE...

...AND A COMPLEX ORIGINALLY DESIGNED AS AN OPERATIONS FACILITY FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. BY STARK INDUSTRIES. THIS VAST COMPLEX WILL SOON BE KNOWN TO THE WORLD-AT-LARGE AS AVENGERS ISLAND.
FOR NOW, ALL LOKI KNOWS IS THAT THOSE HE SEEKS WILL BE FOUND SOMEWHERE INSIDE.
...WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GO HOME TO SALEM?
WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS BEFORE, WANDA! THERE IS MUCH FOR YOU TO LEARN IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
YOUR TIME WITH S.H.I.E.L.D AS WELL AS YOUR TIME WITH THESE AVENGERS WILL--
WHO IS THIS WOMAN-CHILD? WHAT POWER IS IT THAT I SENSE WITHIN HER?
IT'S NOT THE AVENGERS I MIND. THEY SEEM LIKE THEY COULD BE FUN...
...ESPECIALLY THAT DREAMY CAPTAIN AMERICA!
HE'S OLD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR GRANDFATHER, YOUNG LADY!

OH, DON'T GO GETTING SO OVER-PROTECTIVE! I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, YOU KNOW!
BESIDES, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WANTED ME TO GET OUT IN THE WORLD!
THAT IS NOT WHAT I MEANT!
HA, I'M JUST TEASING YOU AND YOU KNOW IT!
CHILD, I ONLY HAVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS AT HEART. I HAVE EVER SINCE--
I KNOW, I KNOW, YOU FOUND ME ON YOUR DOOR-STEP.
BUT, YOU'VE GOT TO ADMIT, HE IS AWFULLY CUTE!
WANDA!
OKAY, SHEESH!
I JUST DON'T HONESTLY SEE HOW ANY OF THIS IS GOING TO MAKE ME ANY MORE ADEPT AT MAGIC!
IT WILL HELP YOU TO CONTROL YOUR POWER, MY DEAR.
SOME-THING, I FEAR YOU NEED!
AH, SO THE GIRL IS A SORCERESS!
AGATHA, DO YOU FEEL THAT?
WHAT?
I SENSE SOMETHING... A PRESENCE. SOMEONE'S IN THIS ROOM... WATCHING US!
I SENSE NOTHING.
AMAZING! SHE DOTH SENSE ME, YET HER MISTRESS DOTH NOT!
ARE YOU CERTAIN?
YES, POSITIVE! WEAVE A SPELL OF CONCEALMENT. I'M SURE THERE'S SOMEONE OR SOMETHING HERE WITH US!
METHINKS 'TWOULD BE BETTER TO LEAVE...
...LEST THEY UNCOVER CRAFTY LOKI!
THERE BE GREAT POWER YET UNTAPPED IN THAT ONE...
...I SHALT BE ESPECIALLY LEERY OF HER!

UNLESS ALL OF OF THESE AVENGERS BE SORCERERS, BUT NO! CLEARLY THIS BE THE LAIR OF A WARRIOR!
ONE THAT DOTH WORSHIP STEEL...
...E'EN AS MUCH AS HE DOTH WORSHIP HIMSELF, IF THESE LOOKING GLASSES BE ANY MARK!
AH, THERE HE BE!
PREENING AFORE YON MIRROR!
FACE IT, SWORDSMAN, YOU DO CUT ONE MEAN FIGURE OF A MAN!
BAH! VAINGLORIOUS FOOL!
I SENSE NO MAGICKS WITHIN HIM!
AYE, I SENSE NAUGHT BUT A VANITY THAT WILL SURELY BE HIS UNDOING...
AH, YET ANOTHER BED CHAMBER!
THIS ONE BE IN DISREPAIR...
...AS THOUGH ITS INHABITANT LEFT IN HASTE!
BUT NO! I HEAR THE GUTTURAL SOUND OF HUMAN EXERTION!
'TWOULD APPEAR THIS ONE NEEDS CONSTANT EXERCISE...
...MAYHAP THAT HE CAN STAND EQUAL WITH HIS BETTERS?
THIS ONE SHALT CAUSE ME NO CONCERN. HE IS NAUGHT BUT A MORTAL...

.. AS DISMISSABLE AS-- EH?
AND WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE [illegible] TWAS?
THE FEMALE DOTH NOT APPEAR TO BE HUMAN!
BE SHE A DEMONESS SOMEHOW IN THEIR MIDST, OR--
--BY ODIN! A DEMON DOTH RISE FROM THE FLOOR!
GREETINGS, HELLCAT! ARE YOU FUNCTIONING WELL?
VISION?!
YOU SCARED A LIFE OUT OF ME!
I AM SORRY, HELLCAT. I HAD NOTHING TO UN-PACK AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT AID YOU.
THAT'S VERY.. NICE.
HEY Y'KNOW, YOU CAN HELP ME!
I WAS JUST READING ABOUT A NEW MASSAGE TECHNIQUE..
...AND YOU'D BE THE PERFECT GUINEA PIG!
A FIGURE OF SPEECH. C'MERE, YOU.
YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE CABLES THAT COMPRISE MY SINEW DO NOT FATIGUE... AND THAT I AM NOT A "GUINEA PIG", AREN'T YOU?
REMARKABLE! A FALSE MAN! I MUST SEE MORE!

I CAN TELL BY HIS BEARING, BY HIS EVERY MOVEMENT, THAT THIS ONE BE SOMEHOW DIFFERENT!
E NDEED, MORE THERE BE TO SEE! WHAT BE THIS?
ONE FAR REMOVED FROM THE OTHERS!
THERE BE A NOBILITY FAR BEYOND MORTAL MAN HERE...
AS THOUGH HE WERE A SCION OF THE AESIR HIMSELF!
BUT WAIT! HE SPEAKETH, YET NONE BE HERE!
DAMN HIM!
DOTH HE SENSE ME, TOO?
EVERYTHING I HELD DEAR...
CLANG
...EVERYTHING I LOVED...
HE TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME!
BUT NO, HE MERELY MUSES.
CLANK
...EVERYTHING EXCEPT MY SOUL!

IN THE PAST, HE RELIVES THE VIOLENCE OF WAR

AND IT'S THE HERO THAT COMES
CAPTAIN AMERICA
AVENGERS

AND THIS IS THE MEETING ROOM! IT'S GOT IT ALL! STATE-OF-THE-ART MONITORS! STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPUTERS!

STATE O'THE ART CHAIRS?

YOU BET! THEY'VE EVEN GOT THE R OWN INSIGNIAS ON 'EM!

AND JUST WAIT LL YOU SEE THE BATH-ROOMS!

YOU CAN JOKE IF YOU WANT TO, BUT I ST'LL SAY THAT THESE SUPER-BEINGS ARE A DANGEROUS PROPOS T ON AT BEST! THEY SHOULD BE OUTLAWED..

WHAT BE THIS, THEN?

OR NEED I REMIND YOU THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. ITSELF WAS FOUNDED AS A COUNTER-MEASURE..,

...NOT GOVERNMENT FUNDED!

...TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY EVIDENCED BY NAMOR'S RACE DURING WORLD WAR II?!

YA DON'T NEED TA REMIND ME O' JACK, GYRICH! ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TA S.H.I.E.L.D!

WE GOT TH S UNDER CONTROL!

OH, WE MOST ASSuREDLY DO, NICK! PARK YOUR PEEPERS ON THIS PRICELESS PIECE OF PUBLIC PERCEPTION!

WHAT VE YA GOT, SELLARS?

THE CAPTA N S Q-RATINGS!

THEY'RE THROUGH THE ROOF! THE AMERICAN PUBL C LOVES OUR STAR-SPANGLED SENTINEL!

HOW'S REACTION TA THE AVENGERS?

WELL... NOT AS GOOD AS THE F.F.

BUT HEY! THEY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET!

IT'LL TURN AROUND JUST AS SOON AS WE SEND THEM ON THEIR FIRST MISSION!

THEIR FIRST MISSION?

OF COURSE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THERE WAS MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON THE TEAM...

...EVEN SUPER-HEROES NEED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, YOU KNOW.

POLITICALLY CORRECT PANSY WASTE.

WHAT THEY NEED ARE STRICT CONTROLS PLACED OVER THEM!

RESTRICTIONS, LIMITS, RULES! THEY NEED TO KNOW WHERE THE BOUNDARIES ARE..

...SO WE DON'T LOSE CONT--

LOOK, PENCIL NECK, WE CONTROLLED THIS ONCE BEFORE... WE'LL CONTROL IT AGAIN!

NOW PUT A SOCK IN IT!

INTERESTING... THE ONE-EYE CONTROLS THESE AVENGERS...

...AND HIS WILL BE STRONG!

COULD HE BE AN ASPECT OF THE ALL-FATHER?

HIS SOLE EYE DOTH REMIND ME OF ODIN... AYE, AND HIS STERN BEARING, TOO!

BUT THIS ONE, HE SHALT BE EASY TO MANIPULATE! HIS EAGERNESS AND ENTHUSIASM DOTH BETRAY HIS CAUSE!

THE ONLY QUESTION IS NOW?

FURY! WE'VE GOT A CALL COMING IN FROM SCANDINAVIA-- CODE YELLOW!

PATCH IT THROUGH!

MOTHER-BIRD, THIS IS THUNDERBASE. COME IN.

WHADDA YA WANT, BLAKE?

COLONEL FURY, I NEVER EXPECTED...

YEAH, YEAH, HER HEART'S ALL AFLUTTER-- WHADDAYA WANT?

WE HAVE A SITUATION, S.R.

WHAT, DID YA BREAK A NAIL OR SOMETHIN'?

DO YOU SEE THAT GIANT PIECE OF AMBER BEHIND ME, S.R.?

YEAH, SO?

THERE APPEARS TO BE A MAN INSIDE IT!

AND...?

AND, AS EXTRAORDINARY AS THIS SOUNDS...

...WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS MAN IS THE TEUTONIC GOD OF THUNDER!

WHAT?

WHOA!

JEEZ.

ELSEWHERE IN THE

I KNOW SHE MEANS WELL, AND I TRULY LOVE THE OLD DEAR.

...BUT SOMETIMES AGATHA ACTS JUST LIKE A MOTHER HEN!

HEY, THAT'S THE VISION!

HELLO, VISION!

ARE YOU OUT EXPLORING, TOO?

MAYBE WE COULD WALK TOGETHER. I WOULDN'T MIND SOME...

VISION?

HELLO?

VISION, ARE YOU IN THERE?

WHRRRRRRRRR

HELLO, WANDASCARLETWITCH. HOW ARE YOU?

UM, FINE. DID I DISTURB YOU?

NO. I WAS DEACTIVATED.

YOU MEAN TURNED OFF?

YES. TO RECHARGE MY CELLS.

SIMILAR TO YOUR SLEEP FUNCTION.

OH... THAT'S CREEPY.

BUT, THEN AGAIN, SHE IS THE CLOSEST THING TO FAMILY I'VE EVER KNOWN!

I OWE HER A LOT FOR RAISING ME LIKE A DAUGHTER FOR TEACHING ME HOW TO USE MY POWERS

I JUST WISH SHE'D REMEMBER THAT I'M A WOMAN NOW...

...AND ALLOW ME THAT INDEPENDENCE!

UM, RIGHT. WELL, I WAS JUST EXPLORING THE COMPOUND.

OH? THEN YOU MUST LET ME TAKE YOU TO ONE OF MY FAVORITE LOCATIONS.

...DR. HENRYPYM'S LABORATORY!

HELLO, DR. HENRYPYM ARE YOU FUNCTIONING WELL?

VISION! GOOD TO SEE YOU! AND YOU MUST BE THE SCARLET WITCH! I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT. I BELIEVE I'M CLOSE TO A BREAK-THROUGH HERE.

I'VE ISOLATED THESE UNUSUAL SUB-ATOMIC PARTICLES THAT I BELIEVE WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF MICRO-BIOTICS!

HERE, TAKE THIS VIAL TO STORAGE UNIT C-12.

:SKREEE: YES, FATHER!

HEY, HONEY, LOOK AT WHAT I JUST BOUGHT FOR YOU: A BRAND NEW TUXEDO!

YOU CAN WEAR IT TO THE GOVERNOR'S BALL NEXT WEEK!

THANKS, JAN, BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT A DOZEN OTHER TUXEDOS YOU BOUGHT ME!

THOSE OLD THINGS? DON'T BE SILLY! THEY'VE BEEN WORN!

SOME PEOPLE WEAR THEIR CLOTHES MORE THAN ONCE, DEAR.

HAVE YOU TWO MET? JANET VAN DYNE, THE SCARLET WITCH.

WANDA.

OH, I LOVE YOUR HAIR!

YOU DO? THANK YOU, MS. VAN DYNE!

CALL ME JAN, EVERYONE DOES!

AND YOUR COSTUME'S SO CUTE! EXCEPT FOR THOSE BOOTS!

WELL, THEY'RE NICE, IN A RETRO KIND OF WAY.

YOU DON'T LIKE THEM?

STEN, YOU SIMPLY MUST GO SHOPPING WITH ME!

I'D LOVE TO! WHEN?

I KNOW THIS GREAT LITTLE BOUTIQUE IN MID-TOWN!

HELLO, MS. JANETVANDYNE.

VIS ON! HOW YA DO N CUTE?

I AM FUNCTIONING WELL, THANK YOU.

SKREEK GREETINGS, MOTHER!

IT'S ULTRON, HONEY! MY NEW LAB ASSISTANT!

HENRY PYM, WHAT IS TH S... THIS THING?

WHAT?

WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?

I NEEDED ONE ONCE VIS.ON BECAME AN AVENGER...

REALLY

.. YES, AND IT THINKS I'M ITS FATHER. ISN'T THAT CUTE?

SO THAT MAKES ME ITS MOTHER?

YOU LISTEN TO ME, HENRY PYM, I DON'T EVER WANT TO HEAR IT CALL ME THAT AGAIN!

YOU JUST KEEP THAT BUCKET OF BOLTS AWAY FROM ME UNDERSTAND?

BREE BREE BREE

BUT, HONEY..

AVENGERS ALARM!

EXCUSE US, PLEASE.

NOW WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE MADE A NICE ANDRO D...

..LIKE VISION?

WE CAME IN AS SOON AS WE HEARD THE ALARM, CAPTAINAMERICA. WHAT IS AMISS ?

I DON T KNOW, VISION. BUT THE CALL CAME FROM THE MEETING ROOM, SO...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

MMM... CATCHY! DO YOU MAKE THAT UP YOURSELF ?

JUST GIVE ME THE WORD, OLD MAN, AN I'LL WHACK 'M FOR YA!
SECURE THAT KIND OF TALK, HAWKEYE! YOU TOO, SWORDSMAN. WE'RE A UNIT NOW..
...LET'S START ACTING LIKE ONE, NO MATTER WHERE THEY SEND US!

NORWAY? I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY SENT US TO NORWAY!

MEBBE THEY WOULDN'T HAVE IF I WERE IN CHARGE!

WOULD YOU TWO JUST SHUT UP? LANDING AREA DEAD AHEAD, DAP!

"THANKS HELLCAT, AND THERE'S OUR CONTACT..

...DR. DONALD BLAKE, I PRESUME? I READ YOUR PAPER ON AKROTIRI. FASCINATING STUFF.

I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND THESE ARE--

THE AVENGERS, YES. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT AN HONOR IT IS TO MEET YOU...

...YOU'RE A LEGEND TO MOST OF US.

NOTHIN' EVER HAPPENS IN NORWAY...

YOU MIGHT DIE IN NORWAY IF YA DON'T SHUT UP!

WE ALL DO WHAT WE CAN.

S.H.I.E.L.D. BRIEFED US ON THE FLIGHT OVER. MAY WE SEE THE ARTIFACT?

IT IS MUCH MORE THAN AN ARTIFACT, CAPTAIN...

...AND SINCE I SPOKE TO COL. FURY WE FOUND SOMETHING ELSE...

...THIS!

A VIKING WAR HAMMER!

THAT ONE'S GOT A TAIL!

I'LL SAY!

AND THE LARGEST ONE I'VE EVER SEEN!

YES, NO ONE CAN EVEN LIFT IT! AND, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN...

THOR'S HAMMER?

COOL!

IT'S MJOLNIR!

BUT THOR IS A MYTH.

ALL MYTHS ARE BASED ON SOME FACT, CAPTA N.

IF THE STUDY OF ARCHAEOLOGY HAS PROVEN ANYTHING, IT'S THAT! WE'VE UNCOVERED UR, TROY, EVEN PLATO'S ATLANTIS, ALL OF WHICH WERE ONCE CONSIDERED MYTHS.

NONE OF WHICH WERE "GODS."

YES, WELL EVEN THAT MAY CHANGE.

AVENGERS, BEHOLD THE MAN IN AMBER!

BEHOLD THE FACE OF THE THUNDERER!

DO YOU MEAN TO SAY--

YES, CAPTA N. I BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THOR!

HOW DO HE GET STUCK IN AMBER?

THAT IS NOT THE QUESTION. THE QUESTION IS HOW DO WE GET HIM OUT?

THIS IS LIKE NO AMBER I'VE SEEN BEFORE. SO FAR IT'S RESISTED EVERYTHING WE'VE THROWN AT IT.

PERHAPS WE'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK, DOCTOR

HAWKEYE, FIRE A BLAST ARROW INTO IT.

FUNP

AH LIVE TO SERVE, MAUSTER!

NOW, LET'S SEE IF I CAN WEDGE MY SHIELD IN.

KOOM

STARSMAN, SEE IF YOU CAN CREATE A HAIRLINE FRACTURE

AYE, MON CAPITAN!

BUT DELIVERED WITH MORE *FINESSE* THAN THE BOWMAN.

VISION, YOU'RE UP NEXT. WANDA, STAND BY.

LOOK AT HIM. NO WONDER HE'S A LEGEND! HE TAKES CONTROL *INSTINCTIVELY*... KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT TO DO IN *ANY* SITUATION!

VISION, DEMATERIALIZE THE SHIELD UNTIL YOU AND IT ARE HALFWAY THROUGH THE AMBER.

ACKNOWLEDGED, CAPTAINAMERICA. IT IS NEARLY TOUCHING HIM!

REMARKABLE! I'VE READ DR. HORTON'S PAPER ON H.M., OF COURSE. BUT TO ACTUALLY SEE H.M. CONTROL HIS DENSITY...

YES, DR. BLAKE. ALL RIGHT, WANDA, THROW A HEX...

NOW!

BUT WON'T THIS UPSET VISION'S CIRCUITRY?

YES! IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THEY WILL SUCCEED!

JUST DO IT, VISION, SOLIDIFY...

NOW!

BABOOM!

IT HATH BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I TROD TH 6 BELOVED WORLD!

TO FEEL IT SWELL MINE LUNGS AND PUMP LIFE INTO MINE BODY!

AHH! TO TASTE THE SWEET AIR OF MIDGARD ONCE MORE!

BUT FEAR THEE NOT, MORTALS...

THOR

BE BORN ANEW!

BY GOD, CAPTAIN, WE DID IT!

YES, BUT WHAT DO WE DO, BLAKE? THE VIKING PEOPLE WERE BARBARIANS AND IF HE'S TRULY THOR...

...THEN HE PROBABLY LIVES BY A MORAL CODE THE MODERN WORLD WOULD FIND UNACCEPTABLE.

AVENGERS, STAND READY FOR ANYTHING!

AND MAKE MINE GRAND ENTRANCE!

OOH, MINE HEAD FEELS LIGHT.. MINE THOUGHTS A FOG...WHERE BE I?

THOR, MINE BROTHER! AT LAST, THOU ART FREE!

HUH? LOKI??

NOW, WHILST HE'S CONFUSED...

..I SHALT USE MINE MAGICKS TO CONFOUND HIM E'EN FURTHER!

YES, 'TIS I, BELOVED BROTHER! I HATH BEEN TRYING TO FREE THEE FROM THY PRISON!
BUT, I...
NAY, I--
DOST THOU NOT REMEMBER HOW WE STOOD, SIDE-BY-SIDE, ODINSONS KNITED?
SURELY THOU RECALLS HOW THEY STRUCK THEE DOWN IN BATTLE ROYAL, THEN ATTACKED THE REALM ETERNAL!
WHO? WHO WOULD DO SUCH A DASTARDLY DEED?
THEM! THE MORTALS CALLED THE AVENGERS!
YOURS AND MINE GREATEST ENEMIES!
STRIKE THEM DOWN WITH ME, MINE BROTHER..
...FOR ASGARD!
WAIT! THAT'S A LIE!
OF COURSE IT IS, CAPTAINAMERICA...
...LOKI IS THE GOD OF LIES AND DECEPTION.

FOR ODIN! FOR ASGARD!
STAND TO, BASE VARLET, AND KNOW WHAT .T MEANS...
NOW, WHILST MINE HALF-WITTED HALF-BROTHER DESTROYS THY TEAMMATES...
LOKI SHALT TURN HIS ATTENTION TO YOU, YOUNG SORCERESS!
C'MON, SWORD, WANDA NEEDS OUR HELP!
THE SWORDSMAN TAKES ORDERS FROM NO ONE!
SO, WHO DIED AND MADE YOU FIELD LEADER, BOWMAN?

...TO FACE A WARRIOR BORN!
BLAKE! GET THOSE CIVILIANS OUT OF HERE!
HAM
DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THIS POUNDING MY SHIELD CAN ABSORB! HIS STRENGTH IS UNBELIEVABLE!
FOOLS! THOU DARE ATTACK ME? THOU ART BENEATH LOK'S CONTEMPT!
UNNGH!
AWAY WITH THEE!
HEY, TALL, BLONDE AND GORGEOUS. WHADDAYA SAY.. YOU, ME, A FIREPLACE, SOM BUBBLY...
MINE EYES! THE DEMONESS DOTH CLAW MINE EYES!

GET THEE OFF ME DEMONESS!

HEY, THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT A...

GOOD- THE CREATURE KNOCKED OUT THE SORCERESS!

WHAT DEVILTRY BE THIS? A DEMON BOTH ROSE FROM THE VERY GROUND?

NOW I MAY TURN MINE ATTENTION TO MINE REAL TARGET!

NOT ARCANE MAGIC, THORTHUNDERGOD.. SCIENCE!

THE ABILITY TO REGULATE MY SYNTHETIC BODY'S DENSITY.

FROM INTANGI-BILITY TO DIAMOND HARDNESS!

LOOK OUT, WANDA..

...I CAN'T--

OOF!

WHOA!

WHUMP

I CARE NOT WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE THOU BE...

LIGHTNING... SHORT... CIRCUIT!

...MINE MAGIC SHALL CAST THEE AWAY FROM ME!

NOW SHALT MIGHTY THOR TAKE OUT THIS WARRIOR!

CAN HE TRULY BE THE NORSE GOD OF THUNDER? NO, THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS! THOR'S A MYTH!

STILL, HE THINKS HE IS...

THOR, WAIT! WE'RE NOT YOUR JAILERS.

I MUST NEEDS STRIKE NOW FOR THE TRUTH OF THE MORTAL'S WORDS SPARK THOR'S MEMORY!

THOR! LOOK OUT!

WHOMP

ODIN'S BLOOD!

EH? 'TIS MJOLNIR!

I... REMEMBER!

LOK! THOU FOUL DECEIVER!

TURN AND FACE MINE WRATH!

WANDA WE'RE IN TROUBLE WE NEED ONE OF YOUR SPELLS!

H-HEXES! I--I'LL TRY.

NOTHING CANST SAVE THEE FROM MINE FURY EVIL ONE!

NOTHING? THOU WERE ALWAYS TOO NAIVE, BROTHER. WITHOUT ODIN HERE TO PROTECT THEE...

I SHALT CAST A SPELL THAT WILT SEND THEE NOW AND FOREVERMORE INTO LIMBO!

NOW, WANDA! CAST A HEX ON LOKI--NOW!

I DON'T KNOW IF I.. ...CAN!

WHAT? MINE SPELL BACKFIRED?!

'TIS THE MORTAL SORCERESS'S DOING. THIS CANNOT BE LOKI'S FAAAATTTE!

OHHH

I'VE GOT YOU, WANDASCARLETWITCH!

WE'RE READY TA HIT GOLDILOCKS ON YER MARK, CAP.

NO! WAIT HAWKEYE! ALL OF YOU.

WE'RE NOT YOUR ENEMIES! LOKI LIED!

OF COURSE. IS HE NOT THE GOD OF LIES?

WHO BE THOU, WARRIOR?

I'M CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THESE ARE THE AVENGERS.

THOU BE WARRIORS?

HEROES.

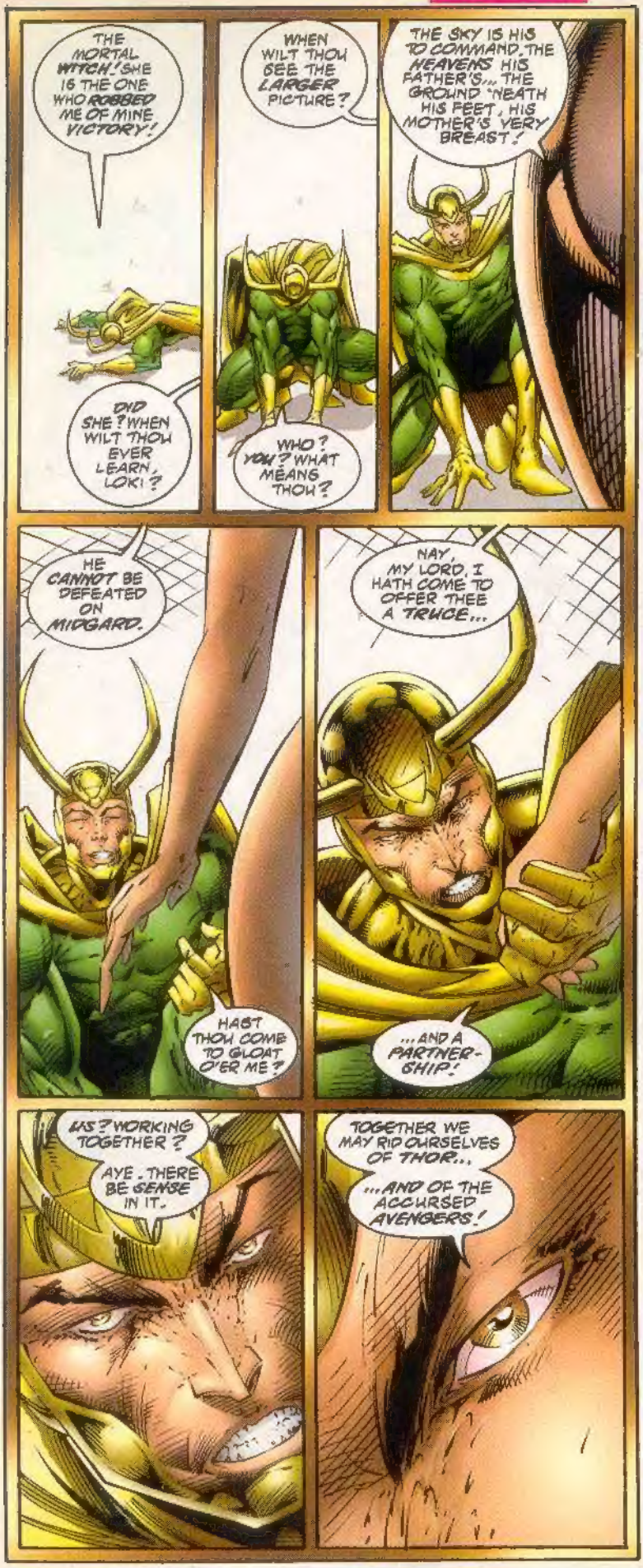
AYE, SAME THING.

PLEASE, THINK BACK. YOU MUST HAVE SOME RECOLLECTION OF HOW YOU GOT HERE.

I REMEMBER AN... ONSLAUGHT...
...A GREAT RECKONING...
...AND SACRIFICE.
BUT, THE DETAILS BE NOT CLEAR.
MINE MOTHER, JORD, SHE WHO ART THE GODDESS OF MIDGARD, SOUGHT TO PROTECT ME FROM...
...RAGNAROK?
RAGNAROK? THIS MAN'S DELUSIONS ARE COMPLETE. I'D BETTER PLAY ALONG.
LISTEN, THOR. I KNOW THAT YOU WERE ONE OF THE GREATEST AND NOBLEST OF ALL THE GODS..
THE AVENGERS COULD USE SOMEONE WITH YOUR RAW POWER...
AND SHOULDERS, AND EYES, AND THIS--
HELLCAT, PLEASE! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
JOIN THEE? AYE. I SEE NOBILITY IN THY BEARING AND HEAR HONOR IN THY VOICE, CAPTAIN AMERICA.
I WILT JOIN THEE 'LEST UNTIL I FIND ONE MORE, MINE TRUE HOME-- THE REALM ETERNAL!

GOOD! THEN WITH YOUR POWERS ADDED TO OURS WE'LL BE AN UNBEATABLE FORCE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL MAN-KIND!
AVENGERS
ASS

THEN LET VILLANY TREMBLE! LET OUR ENEMIES' WIDOWS WEEP! LET THE BATTLE BE NEVERENDING AND LET THE BATTLE CRY RING FORTH!
EMBLE!


THE MORTAL WITCH! SHE IS THE ONE WHO ROBBED ME OF MINE VICTORY!
DID SHE? WHEN WILT THOU EVER LEARN, LOKI?
WHEN WILT THOU SEE THE LARGER PICTURE?
WHO? YOU? WHAT MEANS THOU?
THE SKY IS HIS TO COMMAND. THE HEAVENS HIS FATHER'S... THE GROUND 'NEATH HIS FEET, HIS MOTHER'S VERY BREAST!
HE CANNOT BE DEFEATED ON MIDGARD.
HAST THOU COME TO GLOAT O'ER ME?
NAY, MY LORD, I HATH COME TO OFFER THEE A TRUCE...
...AND A PARTNER-SHIP!
US? WORKING TOGETHER?
AYE. THERE BE SENSE IN IT.
TOGETHER WE MAY RID OURSELVES OF THOR...
...AND OF THE ACCURSED AVENGERS!

THOU MISUNDER-STANDS ME, MY LORD.

I HATH NO INTEREST IN THE AVENGERS...
...SAVE FOR THE YOUNG SORCERESS...
...SHE WHO ART MINE DAUGHTER!
NEXT: KANG!